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January 29, 2003

***Carson Introduces Indian Employment Tax Credit
Making Credit Permanent Would Encourage Economic Development In
Native American Communities***

Washington, D.C. --

– Today Congressman Brad Carson introduced legislation, H.R. 409 which would promote employment throughout Oklahoma by permanently extending the Indian employment tax credit.

The current tax credit, which has been part of the tax code since 1993, is available to businesses who employ qualified Native Americans. Current tax law provides a credit to employers equal to 20% of the qualified wages and health insurance costs for a qualified employee, up to \$20,000. The current tax credit is set to expire on December 31, 2004. The legislation introduced by Congressman Carson would make this tax credit permanent, therefore bringing more certainty to the tax code and encouraging the hiring of Native Americans across Oklahoma.

Employees are generally qualified if they (or their spouses) are enrolled in an Indian tribe and live on or near the Indian reservation where they work, perform services that are all or substantially all within an Indian reservation, and do not receive wages greater than \$30,000 (adjusted for inflation since 1994, currently \$35,000) for the taxable year.

“As President Bush prepares a package to stimulate the economy, it is important that rural Oklahoma not be left out of the equation,” said Congressman Carson. “This tax credit, which historically has been supported by Republican members of our delegation like former Congressman Wes Watkins, is a direct economic stimulus for many working families throughout Oklahoma. I am honored to introduce a tax credit that will help small businesses in my district and throughout Oklahoma. Owners of lawn mower shops, Mom and Pop grocery stores and feed stores will directly feel the affect of this legislation. I believe putting money directly back into the pockets of these small businesses who create jobs locally is a true economic stimulus.”

Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) represents one of the most Native American-populated Congressional districts in the nation. Congressman Carson is

an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Vice-Chair of the Native American Caucus and one of only two enrolled tribal members of the United States House of Representatives.

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